

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-04 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15
TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
IGA-02 L-03 CU-06 AGRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04
CEA-01 DIWY-01 HEW-06 /126 W
-----125206 310805Z /16

R 301300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2915

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DOHA 1015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRP, QA

SUBJECT: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE A-2507

A. IMPORTANCE OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO QATAR'S
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS:

UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO QATAR'S
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. FINANCIALLY SECURE, GOQ
FINDS ITSELF IN THE HAPPY POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO FUND
ALL OF ITS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THE MAIN FOCUS OF
DEVELOPMENT IS IN THE CREATION OF SKILLED MANPOWER THAT
WILL ENABLE THE QATARIS TO RUN THEIR OWN COUNTRY
EFFECTIVELY. THIS IS NO EASY FEAT, FOR WITH A SMALL
POPULATION AND TREMENDOUS PER CAPITA INCOME THERE ARE
FEW INCENTIVES FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO MAKE THE NECESSARY
COMMITMENT IN TIME AND EFFORT TO ACQUIRE ANY SORT OF
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY, QATARIS ARE
A PRIVLEDGED ELITE RELYING ON PEOPLE OF OTHER NATIONALITIES
TO PROVIDE REQUIRED MANPOWER SKILLS.

UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS CONCENTRATED IN THREE
SECTORS: AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION. ALL
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PROJECTS ATTEMPT TO COMBINE TRAINING WITH ASSISTANCE
FOR PLANNING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE
OF ITS RELATIVE WEALTH, NO EXTERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
IS REQUIRED TO FINANCE UN ACTIVITIES HERE. UN ACTIVITIES
REPRESENT THE ONLY FORM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON A
PERMANENT, ORGANIZED BASIS, ALTHOUGH SPOT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IS PROVIDED BY INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS (ESPECIALLY

US) AS REQUESTED BY GOQ. COSTS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE ARE ALWAYS REIMBURSED BY GOQ.

UNDOUBTEDLY GOQ WOULD CONTINUE TO RECRUIT EXPERTS ON ITS OWN IF THERE WERE NO UN PROGRAMS HERE BUT UN ASSISTANCE HAS PROVEN VALUABLE IN PROVIDING GOQ WITH A MECHANISM FOR RECRUITING, SUPPORTING AND EVALUATING TECHNICAL EXPERTISE THAT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE LACKING IF LEFT UP TO GOQ BEAURACRACY.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

FOLLOWING IS LIST OF CURRENT UN PROJECTS IN QATAR:

1. GULF FISHERIES (REGIONAL PROJECT) FAO
2. CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING SCHOOL UN INTERNATIONAL
(REGIONAL PROJECT) CIVIL AVIATION ORG.
3. ASSISTANCE TO FACULTY OF EDUCATION UNESCO
4. FOOD QUALITY CONTROL FAO
5. INTEGRATED WATER AND LAND USE FAO
6. ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL UNIDO
DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL CENTER

TIMELINESS OF EXECUTION:

DELAYS IN PROJECTS SEEM TO BE THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION. THIS IS DUE MAINLY TO THE INEXPERIENCE OF GOQ IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN TERMS OF SUPPORT FACILITIES AND ADVANCED PLANNING. A CASE IN POINT IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CIVIL AVIATION COLLEGE PROJECT WHICH WAS DELAYED FOR MONTHS BECAUSE GOQ FAILED TO PROVIDE LAND PROMISED FOR THE SCHOOL. FINALLY WHEN UNDP REP THREATENED TO CANCEL PROJECT, THE LAND WAS SUPPLIED. NO DELAYS IN EXECUTION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO UN PERSONNEL, ALTHOUGH THEY OFTEN FIND THEMSELVES WAITING FOR OTHERS TO ACT.

LOCAL CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS:

FROM 1977 ON WARD THE COSTS OF ALL UN ACTIVITIES IN QATAR WILL BE FINANCED BY GOQ AND CHANNELED THROUGH UNDP.

MANAGERIAL EFFECTIVENESS:

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THEY OPERATE, THE MANAGERIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF UN OFFICIALS HERE MUST BE RATED AS GOOD.

COOPERATION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS:

GOQ OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH UN PROJECTS ARE STRONGLY COMMITTED TO THEIR PROJECTS, HOWEVER PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN BROADER SUPPORT IS REQUIRED FROM GOQ, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT THIS IS NOT A CASE OF ANTIPATHY

TOWARD THE UN BUT REFLECTS THE LACK OF ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE. REGIONAL REP COMPLAINS OF LACK OF ACCESS TO HIGH QATARI OFFICIALS AND ON ONE OCCASION APPROACHED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR VISITING UN DIGNITARY.

SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES:

THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCIES REGARDING

PROCUREMENT OR UN PERSONNEL. HOWEVER ALL PROJECTS HAVE FAILED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO TRAIN QATARI COUNTER-PARTS. THIS HAS BEEN MOST EVIDENT IN TWO PROJECTS:

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MMO-04 AID-05 CIAE-00

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TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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CEA-01 DIWY-01 HEW-06 /126 W

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R 301300Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2916

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1) ASSISTANCE TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND 2) ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL CENTER.

AT THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, EMPHASIS WAS PLACED UPON TRAINING FUTURE TEACHERS, CONDUCTING RESEARCH AND OFFERING ASSISTANCE IN UPDATING TEACHING METHODS IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. IN REALITY, HOWEVER, UN EXPERTS HAVE BEEN USED ONLY AS TEACHERS. THE FUTURE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE BRIGHTER AND UN OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED DEEP DISSATISFACTION WITH COOPERATION THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM FACULTY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS. AT THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL CENTER, TRAINEES HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS WILLING TO EMPLOY THEM EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY HALF TRAINED AND THE PROJECT FINDS IT VERY DIFFICULT TO RETAIN QUALIFIED TRAINEES.

C. PROJECT EVALUATION:

POST IS AWARE OF ONLY ONE PROJECT EVALUATION CONDUCTED UNDER UNDP TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM. PROJECT EVALUATED WAS ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION, AND IT WAS OF VERY HIGH QUALITY, PINPOINTING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO UPGRADE EFFECTIVENESS OF INSTRUCTION AND TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS. IN ADDITION TO UN OFFICIALS, AN AMERICAN EXPERT IN EDUCATION WAS EMPLOYED IN THE REVIEW.

D. EXAMINATION OF UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS:

THERE IS NO POST REVIEW OF UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS. EMBOFFS HAVE FREQUENT CONTACT WITH UNDP REP AS REQUIRED.

E. COUNTRY PROGRAMMING:

THERE IS NO CURRENT COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR QATAR. TREND IS TO CONTINUE PRESENT PROGRAMS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SHARPENING THEIR FOCUS.

EFFECT OF UNDP'S 1975-6 FINANCIAL CRISIS:

PRIODE TO CRISIS ALL UNDP PROJECTS WERE FINANCED ON A COST SHARING BASIS WITH GOQ PAYING 50-75 PCT OF ALL COSTS. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE CRISIS, GOQ GENEROUSLY AGREED TO ASSUME ALL COSTS TEMPORARILY WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT UNDP WOULD REPAY ITS SHARE IN 1977. AMOUNT OF UNDP LIABILITY AMOUNTED TO APPROX. \$2.8 MILLION.

IN 1977 IN RESPONSE TO UNDP REQ REQUEST, GOQ AGREED TO DEFER APPROX. \$1.7 MILLION ON THE CONDITION THAT UNDP USE THIS SUM FOR EQUIPMENT FOR CIVIL AVIATION SCHOOL PROJECT. THE REMAINING \$1 MILLION IS STILL OUTSTANDING.

APPLICATION OF "NEW DIMENSIONS" TO COUNTRY PROGRAMMING:

"NEW DIMENSIONS" IS NOT APPLICABLE TO QATAR. SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE ARE NOT WELL DEVELOPED IN QATAR AND UN FINDS ITSELF MORE IN THE ROLE OF CREATING INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN UTILIZING ALREADY EXISTING ONES.

F. PERFORMANCE OF THE UN SYSTEM:

DESPITE SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND INFORMAL GOQ UNCLASSIFIED

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RESTRICTIONS THE UNDP ROLE IN QATAR HAS BEEN A POSITIVE ONE. UNDP-GOQ RELATIIONS ARE GENERALLY GOOD ALTHOUGH SOME GOQ OFFICIALS HAVE EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE CONTINUED

ROLE OF UNDP PROGRAMS HERE. THE FEELING IS THAT UNDP SHOULD STUDY PROBLEMS AND OFFER ASSISTANCE NOT AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES. IN MANY CASES THE STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS ARE BEING EMPLOYED TO IMPLEMENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK OUT WELL; THE FAO INTEGRATED WATER AND LAND USE PROJECT MADE EXHAUSTIVE STUDIES OF QATAR'S WATER RESOURCES BUT WHEN A US AGRICULTURAL FIRM WAS BROUGHT IN BY GOQ TO ESTABLISH A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTAL FAO NEITHER PARTY WAS MADE AWARE OF THE WORK OF THE OTHER. MUCH DUPLICATION OF EFFORT OCCURRED BEFORE EMBASSY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. STILL, AS GOQ BECOMES MORE CONFIDENT OF IT CAPABILITIES THE TREND WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO CONTINUE WORK INITIATED BY UNDP PROJECTS.

G. COORDINATION OF ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE:

ALL EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IS CONTROLLED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE ADVISOR TO THE AMIR.

H. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT:

ALTHOUGH UNESCO HAS PROVIDED THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION WITH TWO TEACHERS OF HOME ECONOMICS IN THE WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE SCHOOL, NO REAL INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY UN TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN QATAR. WOMEN PLAY NO ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH EITHER AS DECISION MAKERS OR EXPERTS. CONFRONTED BY OPPOSITION FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS, QATAR LEADERSHIP IS TAKING SLOW AND CAUTIOUS STEPS TO INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO SOCIETY.

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Message Attributes

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